

# EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021

145th Year, No. 127

WINNER OF THE 2020 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50

## State to require masks

County commissioner supports the move, encourages masking in indoor public spaces

By **BRYCE DOLE AND GARY WARNER**  
EO Media Group

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown ordered face masks worn indoors in public places by everyone age 5 and over beginning Friday, Aug. 13.

At a morning press call Aug. 11, Brown said the highly contagious delta variant was pushing the virus spread to the point that each infected person was infecting eight others.

“Moving forward, for the immediate future, masks will be required for all indoor public settings,” Brown said.

The mandate applies to adults and children older than 5. On public transit, that also includes children older than 2.

Brown also urged, but did not mandate, wearing masks in crowded outdoor situations. She also urged private companies and other organizations to enact their own indoor mask policies.

Brown’s order came the day after the Oregon Health & Science University’s infectious disease experts forecast the state could see more than 1,000 COVID-19 patients per day in hospitals by early next month. Oregon would be about 500 staffed beds short of needs for all patients if the rate hit its projected peak of Sept. 7.

Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state epidemiologist, said this “fifth wave” of COVID-19 to hit the state in the past 18 months was different than earlier spikes.

More than half the population is vaccinated, but the “relentless” delta variant was spreading rapidly through the estimated 1.2 million Oregon residents who are not inoculated. That group includes children under 12 for whom there is no federally approved vaccine as yet.

OHA has reported patients arriving at hospitals are younger, sicker, require more care and stay longer.

“The COVID-19 situation is dire,” Sidelinger said, with the delta variant “far outpacing even the grim scenarios in our latest reported projections.”

### Commissioner OK with requiring masks

Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer said he supports the new mask requirements and encourages people to wear masks in indoor public spaces.

“If it’s going to allow Round-Up to happen,” he said, “I can get behind that.”

Shafer added it’s important for county businesses to “do

See Masks, Page A6



INSIDE JOIN THE FESTIVAL WITH GO!



Logan Smith, 11, of Echo, washes down his market lamb Woody, named after cartoon character Woody the Woodpecker, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston. Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

## Returning to the fair’s ways

### Local 4-H, FFA youth ready farm animals for showing Saturday

By **BRYCE DOLE**  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Carolyn Follett cries every year she sees her animal sold at the Umatilla County Fair.

At 13, Carolyn is in her fourth year with 4-H and will be showing off her pig, Peach, at the fair this week. Peach is a 252-pound Yorkshire cross, labeled as “Market Swine.”

“Every year, you think, ‘This pig is the kindest pig. This pig is the most funny pig,’” said Carolyn, of Hermiston. “She’s definitely the sweetest pig I’ve ever had. She lays down right by my feet. She lets other pigs snuggle with her. She lets us snuggle with her. And when I have a sweet pig like this, the thought of not being with her anymore makes me sad.”

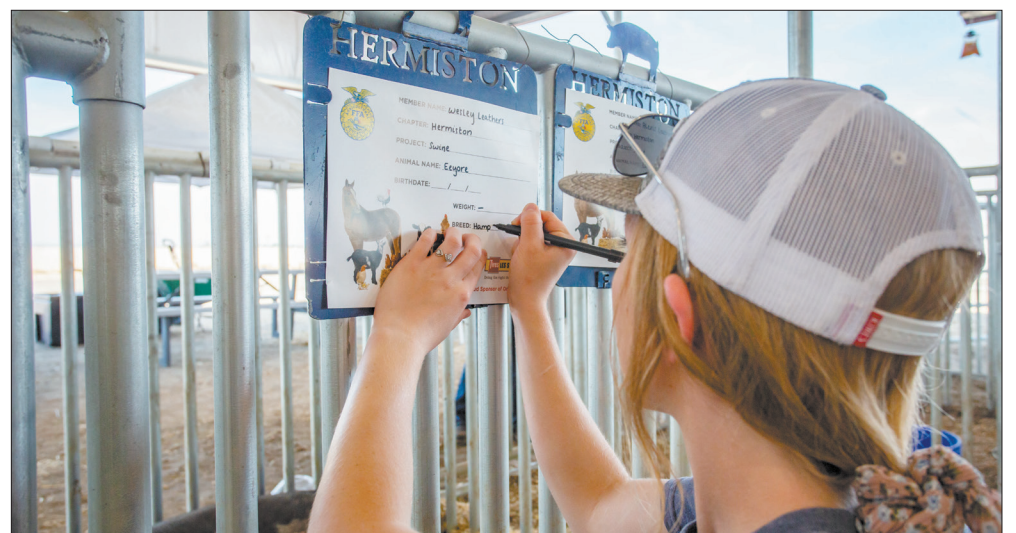
Dozens of 4-H and FFA students will be competing at animal showings this week, culminating with the livestock auction at the Burns Pavilion Saturday, Aug. 14. The youths spend the days cooling their animals with hoses, sweeping the barn, feeding their animals and getting them ready for this week’s showings. Each expressed a special bond they have with their animal, despite knowing many of their animals will find their way to someone’s dinner table.

“She’s really nice to me,” Cord Cooley, Carolyn’s 13-year-old cousin, said while looking at his pig, Wiggles. “Whenever I’m in there, she gets right next to me and sometimes will bite at my feet and look up at me as far as she can go and push out her tongue. She’s a poser.”

See Fair, Page A6



Carolyn Follett, 13, of Hermiston, poses for a portrait with her market swine Peach on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, in the livestock barn at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston. Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian



Alexis Leathers, 18, fills out an FFA livestock card on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, for her brother Wesley Leathers’ hog at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston. Her hog, Lady, and her brother’s, Eeyore, both failed to make sale weight, meaning they only will show their animals this week and wait for the Pendleton Junior Livestock Show later this year. Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

## Pendleton Children’s Center switches focus to Stillman Park

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — As the Pendleton School District closed the door, the Pendleton Children’s Center found a window.

The nonprofit child care center walked away from its proposal to acquire a block of bare land east of the Pendleton Early Learning Center and refocused its efforts on constructing a building that would provide care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

The Pendleton Parks and Recreation Commission, at a meeting Tuesday, Aug. 10, recommended the city approve leasing a section of Stillman Park, 413 S.E. Byers Ave., to the children’s center. After the meeting, Kathryn Brown, the center’s secretary-treasurer, said the nonprofit aims



The Pendleton Parks and Recreation Commission, during a meeting Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, recommended the city approve leasing a section of Stillman Park to the Pendleton Children’s Center. Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

to open its new facility next summer should the Pendleton City Council greenlight the project. Brown also is a member of the commission and

the vice president of the EO Media Group, the parent company of the East Oregonian.

Brown said the center was

attracted to the property because of its playground and its proximity to the InterMountain Education Service District’s Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education program. The center plans to place a modular or prefabricated building where the park’s tennis courts are now. Parks and recreation director Liam Hughes said the courts had fallen on hard times.

“They’re in disrepair,” he said. “They’re in need of maintenance. Something needs to happen there.”

Hughes said he doesn’t usually support parceling out parks properties, but the children’s center would solve Stillman’s tennis court issue and is in line with the department’s services, which includes an after-school program and a summer camp.

See Park, Page A6

